

Turakina Beach Access
Results of Koitiata Household Survey – October 2005

Access to Turakina Beach via a ford has been a matter for discussion for many years. Sound arguments for and against improving access to the beach have been made and technical problems and costs have been considered. These can be summarised as follows:

The Current Problem:

- Difficulty of access for pedestrians (particularly the elderly, infirmed, parents with babies, and children).
- Depth of the water (and temperature for walkers), in the winter months.
- Need of constant maintenance by residents.

Disadvantages of Upgrading:

- Further erosion of the dunes and the destruction of dune building plants with increased traffic (particularly the ‘hoon’ element), speeding on the beach.
- Increase in rates to fund upgrade.
- Possibility of an expensive structure being washed away in a flood.
- Need to gain Resource Consent.

Recent meetings between representatives of the Department of Conservation, Horizons, Rangitikei District Council and the residents of Koitiata resulted in an agreement to proceed as follows:

1. DOC, Horizons and RDC draw up a list of possible options with costs and benefits. This resulted in the four options as follows:

- 1 THE FORD STAYS AS IT IS.**
(Difficult for pedestrians, least expensive, minimises ‘hoon’ traffic, problem of ongoing maintenance by volunteers)
- 2 UPGRADE TO ALL SEASON VEHICLE ACCESS.**
(The most expensive option, may be washed away with flooding, free access for ‘hoon’ traffic, difficulty gaining consent, easy access for pedestrians, who would maintain it?)
- 3 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS VIA A FOOT BRIDGE LEAVING THE FORD AS IT IS**
(Allows pedestrian access, minimises ‘hoon’ traffic, consent possible, may be washed away with flooding, will require ongoing maintenance.)
- 4 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS WITH A FOOT BRIDGE AND UPGRADE OF FORD TO MAKE IT MORE PERMANENT.**
(As for (3) with professional rather than volunteer maintenance)

In the third week of October 2005, the households of Koiitiata were surveyed with these four options, and the results were as follows:

Approximately **80** survey forms were distributed - **54** were returned

OPTION 1

The ford stays as it is **16 votes (30%)**

OPTION 2

Upgrade to all season vehicle access **1 vote (2%)**

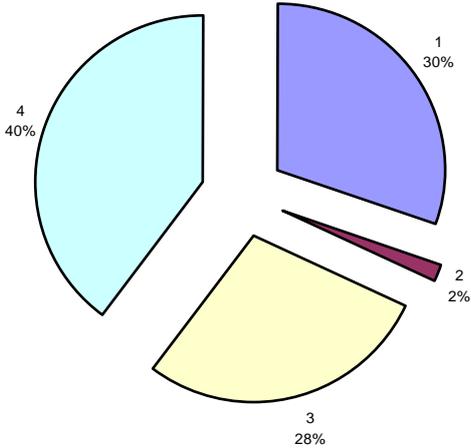
OPTION 3

Pedestrian access via footbridge leaving ford as it is **15 votes (28%)**

OPTION 4

Pedestrian access via footbridge with some upgrading ford **21 votes (40%)**

One form was returned without voting



Shown as a pie chart with percentages

Summary of Comments

(A tick indicates a further comment in same vein)

OPTION 1 - Stay as it is - (15 votes):

- Hate the idea of any improvement
- Need to protect fauna and flora
- Will increase property values = increase rates
- Open villagers to speculators, wealthy Aucklanders & Americans
- Don't want pubs, cafes and shops
- Improvements may be washed away and waste money ✓
- Loss of village identity
- The whole situation is very negative
- More members of the community need to help with working bees – especially high/heavy users.

OPTION 2 - All Season access: (1 vote):

- We cannot allow the hoons to dictate our lifestyle. They will find their way onto the beach despite all we do.

OPTION 3 - Pedestrian Footbridge (both options= 36 votes):

- Need for high standard of construction
- Need to allow access for prams/pushchairs ✓✓
- Need to prevent vehicle/motorcycle/hoon access on footbridge ✓✓✓
- Increase in rates for building ✓

General:

- Dry access will naturally occur in the near future
- Hoon traffic is relative – it was worse 20 years ago
- Need for beach maintenance/protection no matter what happens
- Money might be available from Lotto, Central Region Trust
- What about a small platform with a handrail to pull both ways?
- Suggest stepping-stones ✓

Where to from here?

Now that the local residents have had their say, the discussion is to be opened up to the public at large. A public meeting, probably in Marton, will be called soon.